(a) whether it is fact that a joint statement have been signed regarding development of computing platform adaptable to local Infrastructure condition between the chip maker Intel and Government recently;

(b) if so, the salient features of the statement;

(c) whether it was in the interest of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Intel has signed a joint statement with Ministry of Communications and IT which focuses on reaching benefits of IT to the masses with the aim to design an appropriate Computing Platform for use in community kiosks based on cost effective wireless communication technologies. It outlines collaboration in the broad areas of Reaching IT to the Masses; Enabling Technology Competitiveness and Education.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The partnership is aimed at enabling citizens in villages and rural areas to avail benefits of information revolution, enhance IT literacy and PC proliferation, widening Government services reach and delivery and narrowing the digital divide.

Telecom Policy

1140. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the draft Telecom Policy has been finalized;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when it would be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) It is expected to be finalized by the end of this year.

Setting up of Vigilance Telecom Monitoring Cell

1141. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.